



A Successful 2002-2003 Influenza Campaign

By Lottie Perkins, RN, BSN, MHA

South Service planning Area experienced a successful Influenza campaign for the 2002-2003 Influenza (Flu) season. There were 3,205 vaccine doses administered at 43 outreach clinic sites; 470 vaccine doses were administered at the South Health Center. A total of 3,675 doses of vaccine was given through December of 2002. Flu vaccines are still being administered at the South Health Center, leading to an increase in the total number of vaccine doses administered in 2002-2003.

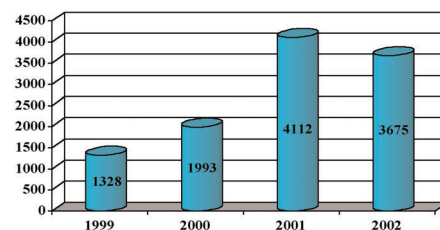
1999 - 2000	2000 - 2001	2001 - 2002	2002 - 2003
1,328	1,993	4,112	3,675

The lower flu vaccine counts historically reported at the South SPA have improved significantly over the past four Influenza Campaign seasons. Extensive community outreach and an increase in the number of sites available for conducting flu clinics, have been responsible for the increase for the last 2 years.

In 2002, there was an overall drop of about 10% in the total number of vaccine doses administered in the South SPA and Countywide. Conversely, the South SPA vaccinations increased by 106% in 2001 and by 50% in 2000. The recent decrease was mainly due to the timely availability of vaccines in the local physician offices.



Flu Outreach 1999-2002
Shots Administered



The South SPA 2002 Highlights

The Area Health Office is responsible for identifying and meeting the health needs of local communities through coordination of Public Health Programs & Services and Community Partnerships.

Area Health Office Updates

- The SPA 6 first quarterly newsletter (South Chronicle) was started in June 2002. The Chronicle informs the Community on health issues and existing collaborations and provides SPA specific Communicable Disease information for specific time periods.
- The South SPA website was set up in June 2002. The first Health Assessment Report was released in June 2002 and has been available on the website. The data can be downloaded directly into an Excel spreadsheet to be used for immediate access for grant writing and presentations. This report is a comprehensive assessment of the residents' health and factors influencing it. The report is aimed to assist our community partners,

policy makers, government agencies, and businesses to better plan services to enhance residents' health and quality of life.

The South Service Planning Area Public Health is pleased to inform the community of extending the clinic hours in the South Health Centers from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays for all clinics. The Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic at the Ruth Temple Health Center has offered its clients an extended clinic time on Thursdays between 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. since August 2002.

- Patient visits have been increasing in the South SPA clinics due to the closure of area clinics. South Health Center clinics have been updated with better equipments and more comfortable settings to accommodate the additional patients seen locally. Physicians have been offered cross training to work in both STD and TB clinics. There have been local collaborations with the Watts Learning Center to accommodate patients for counseling on healthier teen sexuality, better study skills, and to offer

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daycare solutions. Joint ventures have been planned between the two facilities to better inform the public on the available resources for their physical and emotional health.

- A Satellite link was installed at the SPA headquarters to offer educational broadcasts to staff and the community.
- Due to the reduction of health services and the closure of community clinics, the South SPA Area Health Office has been negotiating to start a Tuberculosis Clinic at Hubert Humphrey Comprehensive Health Center. Additional work is needed to launch this project.

August Immunization Campaign

- The Compton Family Health Collaborative, in conjunction with the SPA-6 Area Health Office, sponsored an Immunization campaign in August 2002, the second National Immunization Awareness Month, to enhance the immunization rates in Compton in response to the closure of the Compton Health Center. The local initiative developed in Compton included several community churches, local health care organizations, and various departments of Los Angeles County government. Twelve sites were selected where the children would receive free of charge back-to-school immunizations. Children received follow-up for Tuberculosis skin test results and any other primary care problems at the health care facilities

involved in the collaborative. Technical and staffing needs at each location, including publicity, equipments, clinical and support staff, and incentives were properly addressed through community partnerships. A combined total of 531 immunizations were given with an average of 44 immunizations per site.

Senior Peer Immunization and Health Care Access Training Program

- The South Service Planning Area Health Office implemented their 2nd Senior Peer Immunization and Health Care Access Training Program on September 19, 2002 at the South Health Center. Lottie Perkins, PHN developed and organized this training as a part of Public Health Nursing effort to increase the rate of flu vaccination in SPA 6. Additionally this training was developed to provide information about regular sources of free and low cost health care for uninsured individuals. Four community volunteers, Dorris Bell, Gussie Hayes, Aruella Grigsby, and Christine Sparks, participated in this training. The volunteers were trained to encourage and inform their peers about the flu vaccination and adequate health care access. Shirley Bordelon of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, who provided the funding, attended this training. Melva Atayde of the Health Consumer Center, provided information about access to health care. Dr. Belinda Towns, Area Health Officer, addressed the group and praised the participants for their efforts on improving health care access among seniors.

New SPA 6 Directory

Service Planning Area 6 Administrative Offices have new phone numbers.

The Administrative Offices can be reached at 323-235-6732. The Administration fax number is 323-846-5442. Nursing Office at Humphrey Comprehensive Health Center can be reached at 323-235-6730. Nursing fax number is 323-846-5443.

FREE PROSTATE CANCER TREATMENT

The State of California has funded a three-year program that provides FREE treatment for prostate cancer. The program is called IMPACT - Improving Access, Counseling and Treatment for Californians with Prostate Cancer - and is administered by UCLA under the direction of Dr. Mark S. Litwin and Medical Director Dr. James R. Orecklin.

IMPACT helps men who have no or limited health insurance, do not qualify for Medi-Cal, do not have Medicare and have incomes under 200 percent of the federal poverty level. IMPACT provides free prostate cancer treatment for up to 18 months to men who qualify. The new program is designed to increase patient education and promote awareness about the importance of early prostate cancer detection and treatment.

Patients can receive prostate cancer treatment from IMPACT at many community hospitals and physician offices throughout California. Treatments for prostate cancer paid for by IMPACT include: radical prostatectomy, external beam radiation therapy, hormone therapy, chemotherapy and "watchful waiting."

To enroll in IMPACT, patients must use a contracted physician or hospital.

For more information about IMPACT call: 1-800-409-8252 or logon to: www.california-impact.org.

A NEW HIV STUDY IN THE SPA 6 & 4

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has funded a new HIV study called Project 1. The study is being conducted by the HIV Epidemiology Program in collaboration with the Office of AIDS Programs and Policy and local healthcare providers. The main objectives of the study are to describe the populations that represent the leading edge of the HIV epidemic and to investigate why HIV prevention was not successful among persons diagnosed with recent HIV infection. The principal investigator for Project 1, is Trista Bingham, M.P.H., M.S. The project is being introduced to our community by Ekow Kwa Sey, M.P.H., an epidemiologist at the HIV Epidemiology Program.

Private and Public Health Care Clinics in SPA6 are being asked to tell newly diagnosed HIV positive patients about this project. The patient then has the option to participate in the project.

Patients who decide to participate in Project 1 will receive \$40-90. Participation in this study includes an initial interview and a blood draw. Blood tests will determine if the patient has been infected with HIV for more or less than 6 months. Patients who have been infected with HIV for less than 6 months will be offered the option of completing an additional interview.

Participating patients will also receive HIV resistance testing (genotype and phenotype). The results of resistance testing may assist the patient's doctor in choosing an appropriate treatment regimen. Additionally, the patient will receive counseling and referrals for other needed services.

Ekow Kwa Sey has made himself available to speak with concerned community groups about this project.

He can be contacted at 213-351-8199.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: THE PROCESS

By Chris Corniola, M.P.H., Metro SPA Epidemiology Analyst

Strategic Planning is a powerful tool and is the key to an organization's future success. It is a continuous and systematic process by which the guiding members of an organization envision its future and develop the necessary procedures and operations to achieve that future. A successful Strategic Planning Model starts with honest leadership and addresses the organization's mission, goals and values, internal and external needs assessment, strategic objectives, strategies, outcome measures and performance evaluation. Strategic planning should be proactive, involve all the relevant team members and continuously assess actions, outcomes, and performance.

The benefits of strategic planning include:

- keeping the focus on the organizational priorities;
- allocating resources appropriately to activities that provide the greatest benefit;
- setting realistic and attainable objectives; and,
- identifying the impact of a changing business environment on the organization's direction.

Additional benefits include improved communication and identification and elimination of areas of poor performance.

The strategic planning process creates a frame of reference for budgets and short-range operational plans and promotes a sense of security among employees by increasing their understanding of the changing environment and the organization's ability to adapt.

Strategic planning is a continuous process, tapping into opportunities and partnerships, building relationships, analyzing the position and progress of the organization, envisioning where the organization needs to be, reassessing objectives and updating plans as circumstances change in the economic and political arena.

It is our sincere hope that our colleagues in the public health sector will continue to improve their processes with the utilization of a high quality strategic plan.

South Service Planning Area Selected Reportable Diseases* (Cases)

Disease	2002		2001	
	Jul-Sep 02	Oct-Dec 02	Jul-Sep 01	Oct-Dec 01
AIDS	55	51	44	61
Amebiasis	0	2	0	2
Campylobacteriosis	6	27	10	45
Chlamydial Infections	2015	2267	1819	1797
Encephalitis	0	2	0	1
Gonorrhea	585	599	597	555
Hepatitis Type A	1	10	3	16
Hepatitis Type B	0	4	0	1
Hepatitis Type C	0	1	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0
Meningitis	4	17	3	9
Meningococcal Infections	0	2	0	0
Non-gonococcal Urethritis	38	41	10	53
Pertussis	1	6	1	2
Salmonellosis	7	39	6	41
Shigellosis	16	82	4	37
Syphilis, primary & secondary	4	5	10	1
Syphilis, early latent (<1 yr.)	7	9	8	7
Tuberculosis	36	38	42	37

* Data provided by DHS' Public Health programs: Acute Communicable Diseases, Data Collection & Analysis, HIV/Epidemiology, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, and Tuberculosis Control. Data are provisional due to reporting delay.

South SPA Health Team

Area Health Officer:	A. Belinda Towns, MD, MPH
Area Medical Director:	Maxine Liggins, MD
Area Nursing Director:	Martina Travis, RN
Area Director of Operations:	Willie Mae Howard, MPA, BS Educ.
Epidemiology Analyst:	Farimah Fiali
Health Educator:	Vacant
Health Educator Coordinator	Teresa Level
Community Liaison	Lottie Perkins, PHN
for Research & Education	
Secretary	Erika Altamirano

Chronicle Staff

Editor in Chief - Farimah Fiali

The South Quarterly Chronicle is a quarterly publication of the South Service Planning Area (SPA 6), providing updates on projects, outreach and health and safety issues relevant to the community. Please forward comments, suggestions or address changes to the Editor at the address below or contact us at:
Office: (323) 235-6732 - Fax: (323) 846-5442

www.lapublichealth.org/spa6/

SOUTH SPA HEALTH VISION STATEMENT

Individuals working together in families, organizations, and businesses to increase the length of healthy life for all residents of South SPA 6

SOUTH SPA COMMUNITY PLEDGE

I pledge to promote the health of our community by keeping a watchful eye on my own health, cherishing the health of my family, and reminding my friends and neighbors to practice healthy habits.

I pledge to affirm and protect the innocence of our youth, the success of our families, and the wisdom of our seniors.



Hubert H. Humphrey Comprehensive Health Center
5850 South Main Street
Los Angeles, California 90003

Public Health Mission:

To safeguard and improve the health of all Los Angeles County Residents.